

REMARKS:

Claims 1-40 are pending in the application, of which claims 19-40 are withdrawn pursuant to a restriction requirement. Claims 1-11, 14, 15, and 18 are rejected; claims 12, 13, 16, and 17, on the other hand, are indicated to be directed to allowable subject matter. By this amendment, the allowable dependent claims are rewritten in independent form, and the remaining dependent claims are amended to depend either directly or indirectly from claim 16. Claims 1 and 15 are cancelled. In view of these amendments, Applicants submit that all remaining claims are in condition for allowance, and timely Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

The undersigned representative requests any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application.

The undersigned representative authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 14-1437, referencing Attorney Docket No.: 7589.163.NPUS01.

In order to facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, the Examiner may directly contact the undersigned by phone to further the discussion.

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Respectfully submitted,

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